



# Fossil Footnotes

Central Texas Paleontological Society  
March 2003

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## President's Note

For a short month, February sure was wild, weather-wise. All the rain will insure great collecting just about anywhere, but you couldn't get into any creeks because of high water. Then I was complaining about the 80 degree heat, but the next two days it froze and you couldn't go anywhere because of the ice. I just sat in my garage cleaning fossils from all the way back to collecting in 1992.

After the rain, Mike Smith was on the road to Plano, and spent time collecting in Mineral Wells, Perin and around Palo Pinto Lake. Gary Rylander was using his newly refurbished air abrasive unit to clean a slab with multiple shark teeth from Shoal Creek. I hope you were enjoying your hobby as these guys were.

I saw several members at the Williamson County Gem and Mineral Show, on the Saturday of our field trip. Many opted to stay warmer than those on the Brownwood trip, which sounded quite chilly. In February, one should ALWAYS take layers of clothes, just in case. Of the Ten-Who-Dared, Dennis Fryar even stopped to buy a jacket before collecting. Hal Hopkins collected despite a broken leg.

The U. T. Geology library has reopened, in a new location, in the new section of the Geology complex. It is on the fourth floor, which is the old third floor. (They have renamed the levels!). It is in the new Jackson School. The stacks were moved at the end of January, but, alas, not everything has been put in yet. Both references I sought were to be brought in by early March. There is one computer terminal for non-students to look up references. Just ask which it is... You may find it easier to do your search first at home, through the UT NET Catalog.

Spring Break happens during this month, and during our meeting time. See you at the meeting

John

## March Field Trip

The field trip this month is all the way to Jasper, TX to collect wood from the Oligocene. Hal Hopkins is looking forward to this because he will have his cast off by then. This will be a joint field trip with the Piney Woods G&M club, led by their member Ron Ducote. His instructions follow.

I suggest we meet at the McDonalds in Jasper on Saturday. It is located just south of the Hwy 190/Hwy 96 intersection (on Hwy 96). Meet at 8:30am

Just a suggestion, we usually wear old tennis shoes and wade the creek. The creek is usually about ankle deep, and it has a good clean sandy bottom in most places. There may be a few 'holes' that are mid-calf to knee deep, but only a few. Of course, your crew is free to wear what they prefer. Old pants/shorts will be good also.

They should have a backpack to make it easier to carry out their 'wood'. We sometimes carry small shovels or pry bars to help get wood out from the creek. Again, there will be lots of wood to pick up whether they use shovels/pry bars or not. Water and food as needed, of course.

We should be able to drive trucks and SUVs fairly close to the creek, but we need to 'carpool' going in so as to minimize the traffic. We can park most of the vehicles on the main road going in, then carpool to the creek.

Tentative plans will be for us to stay there until mid-afternoon. - Ron

## February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by president John Hinte after the members enjoyed several minutes of the many "show-and-tell" items.

The meeting began with a talk from Dr. Chris Bell. Dr. Bell uses his background in biology to bring new insight to the classification of fossils. In his entertaining talk, Dr.

Bell used examples involving lizards and ferrets to raise questions about some of modern paleontology's basic assumptions about phylogeny.

After Dr's Bell's talk, John Hinte gave a short report on his trip to the Tucson show. This was followed by a discussion of future field trips. The schedule for the February 15 field trip to the Brownwood area was announced. A suggestion was made that we try to arrange trips to two quarries for the May field trip to the Midlothian area. It was agreed we should pursue this suggestion.

Patrick Hatten won the door prize and the meeting was closed.

Ron Root

## February Field Trip

The morning of February 15 started out very mild in Austin. Hal Hopkins, Ed Elliot, Bill Kidd, Ron and Janet Root, Kathleen Howard, David and Mark Lindberg, Dennis and Cindi Fryar, and Gary and Kathy Rylander traveled to Brownwood expecting a warm day. When the group arrived in Brownwood the temperature was in the low 40's with a stiff wind! After a couple of stops at the local Walmart for warmer clothes, we proceeded to the Wilson clay pit. The group shivered through several hours collecting the plentiful Crinoid parts, a few shark teeth fragments, brachiopods, bivalves and a few trilobites. The Roots' discovered a shelf covered with dozens of horn corals (Lophophyllidium) and fusulinids. Hal left early with some feeble excuse about a broken leg. Some of the group were hardy enough to move on in the afternoon to Santa Anna for a few more hours of collecting in the Pennsylvanian. Except for the cold, a good day all around.

Merge of reports from Ron Root and Ed Elliott.



These pictures are a follow-up to a previous story in the newsletter. Kevin Durney, a member who recently moved to Austin, collected this ammonite north of Del Rio. It was in two parts and took two trips to get it home. He's the proud owner of a new home here in Austin and was able to join the parts together in his garage. The pictures show the ammonite with his older son Coleman and his younger son Conner. (Thanks to Eric Henry.)

## Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
March 11	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
March 14 / 15	Southwest Gem & Mineral Soc, Morris Activity Ctr, Coliseum Rd. @ Freeman Blvd. San Antonio, TX
March 15	<b>Field Trip:</b> Jasper (wood)
March 29 / 30	Gulf Coast Gem & Min. Soc. Bayfront Plaza 1901 No. Shoreline Dr. Corpus Christi, TX.
April 8	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
April 12	<b>Picnic and Auction</b>
May 13	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
May 17	<b>Field Trip:</b> Midlothian (?)
June 10	<b>CTPS meeting</b>
June 21	<b>Field Trip:</b> Banderra
November 7-9	<b>Fossil Fest,</b> Old Settlers Heritage Association, Round Rock, TX

## Club Contacts, 2003

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## Club Information

The Central Texas Paleontological Society is a scientific, non-profit, community-based organization devoted to the study of fossils, advancing the state of the science, educating the public, and collecting fossil specimens. Most of us are amateurs, fascinated by fossils, who love to collect.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the LCRA building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. (between Redbud Trail and Enfield Ave.) at 7:00 PM in the LCRA Offices Board Room of the Hancock Bldg. **The public is cordially invited** to attend these meetings as well as our field trips held throughout the year.

Annual dues are: \$15 per person or \$18 per family, which includes a subscription to this newsletter, membership in the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, and liability insurance coverage for club activities. Associate membership is \$10 per year and includes a subscription to this newsletter.

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## **About the Newsletter**

Fossil Footnotes is distributed once a month prior to each meeting. Contact the Membership Chair to subscribe or obtain a sample-issue. If your mailing-label has a date marked with a colored pen, it means your membership has or is about to expire. Please send your check to the club Membership officer or bring it to a meeting.

We accept material from club members (and non-members at our discretion) including, but not limited to, information relevant to club activities, fossil collecting, paleontology & geology, and science education. Feel free to reproduce original material contained in this newsletter for educational purposes (including other club newsletters), so long as you credit the newsletter issue and author, if applicable. Send submissions by e-mail or hardcopies to the Editor (see above) at least two weeks before the meeting. Expect some publication delays for exotic formats.

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